

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 MBABAN 00258 01 OF 02 120057Z

73

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 EUR-08 ISO-00 NSC-01 AID-01 /018 W

----- 115573

R 111610Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7578

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MBABANE 0258

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, ECON, OREP, SF, US, WZ (DIGGS, C.C.)

SUBJECT: CODEL DIGGS VISIT TO SWAZILAND

1. SUMMARY. CODEL DIGGS HAS ACTIVE AND SUCCESSFUL VISIT
IN SWAZILAND FEB. 6 THROUGH 8. DURING THESE TWO DAYS,
CODEL WAS GUEST AT RECEPTION HOSTED BY PM, AND MET WITHR
FIVE GOS MINISTERS, COUNTRY TEAM, PCV AND CHAIRMAN OF
LOCAL REFUGEE COMMITTEE. DISCUSSIONS COVERED LOCAL AFFAIRS
AND REGIONAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS. CODEL WAS WARMLY RECEIVED
BY GOS OFFICIALS, AND HIS V SIT WAS THE TOP STORY IN THE
LOCAL MEDIA WHILE HE WAS IN SWAZILAND. END SUMMARY.

2. SCHEDULE. CODEL ARRIVED AFTERNOON OF FEB. 6 VIA DAO
AIRCRAFT FROM GABORONE. FOLLOWING BRIEFING BY COUNTRY
TEAM, CODEL WAS GUEST OF HONOR AT RECEPTION HOSTED BY
PRIME MINISTER PRINCE MAKHOSINI. FOLLOWING DAY, CODEL
MET WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ZONKE KHUMALO; PRIME
MINISTER; MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, MINES & TOURISM S.S.

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PAGE 02 MBABAN 00258 01 OF 02 120057Z

NXUMALO; MINISTER OF WORKS, POWER & COMMUNICATIONS DR.
ALLAN NXUMALO; AND MINISTER OF FINANCE STEPHENS. CODEL

ALSO LUNCHEON WITH COUNTRY TEAM AT CHARGE'S RESIDENCE,
RECORDED AN INTERVIEW WITH SWAZILAND BROADCASTING SERVICE,
MET PRIVATELY WITH JOE MKWANAZI, CHAIRMAN OF LOCAL
REFUGEES' COMMITTEE, AND ATTENDED INFORMAL DINNER GIVEN
BY S.S. NXUMALO. ON SATURDAY MORNING, FEB. 8, CODEL MET
WITH ABOUT 20 PCVS BEFORE DEPARTING FOR JAN SMUTS VIA
DAO AIRCRAFT. EMBOFF WAS PRESENT AT ALL MEETINGS EXCEPT
THAT WITH MKWANAZI. PRINCIPAL SUBJECTS DISCUSSED WERE
THE FOLLOWING:

3. REFUGEES. DPM, WHO HAS PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR
REFUGEE AFFAIRS IN GOS, TOLD CODEL THAT GOS HAD ACCEPTED
ABOUT 100 POLITICAL REFUGEES FROM SOUTH AFRICA AND
MOZAMBIQUE. SINCE FRELI MOIHAD TAKEN OVER IN MOZAMBIQUE,
REFUGEES FROM THAT COUNTRY HAD RETURNED, (EXCEPT FOR A FEW
WHO HAD DECIDED TO SETTLE IN SWAZILAND) AS RESULT
COOPERATIVE EFFORT BETWEEN GOS AUTHORITIES AND LOCAL
FRELIMO REPS. A NUMBER OF REFUGEES FROM SOUTH AFRICA
REMAINED. GOS WAS WILLING TO HELP THESE PEOPLE PROVIDED
THEY ABSTAINED FROM POLITICAL ACTIVITY, AS REQUIRED.
HOWEVER, TWO HAD FAILED TO DO SO AND WERE IN PRISON. DPM
ASKED IF USG COULD NOT MODIFY ITS LAWS TO MAKE IT EASIER
FOR U.S. TO ACCEPT SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICAL REFUGEES IF
THEY WANTED TO MOVE ON. REP DIGGS REPLIED THAT BECAUSE
OF ILLEGAL ENTRY PROBLEM FROM MEXICO AND ELSEWHERE AND
CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION IN U.S., THERE IS CONSIDERABLE
CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION TO PREMITTING INCREASED IMMIGRATION.

4. SUGAR. FOUR OF THE MINISTERS THAT CODEL CALLED ON
EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR U.S. SUGAR QUOTA AND HOPE THAT
U.S. WOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE GUARANTEED MARKET FOR SWAZI
SUGAR EXPORTS. IN REPLY, REP. DIGGS DESCRIBED CHANGE OF
HOUSE AG COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP WHICH HE THOUGHT WOULD BE
MORE FAVORABLE TO SWAZI INTERESTS. HE URGED GOS TO RETAIN
A LOBBYIST/PR FIRM WHICH HAD GOOD CONNECTIONS WITH THIS NEW
LEADERSHIP. DIGGS ALSO MENTIONED THAT CONTINUED SWAZI
EXPORTS OF SUGAR TO THE U.S. IN '75 WOULD HELP TO ASSURE
A SUBSTANTIAL QUOTA IF AND WHEN NEW LEGISLATION IS PASSED.

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PAGE 03 MBABAN 00258 01 OF 02 120057Z

5. MOZAMBIQUE. IN DISCUSSION WITH THA PM, DIGGS REFERRED
TO HIS RECENT VISIT TO L.M. AND STATED THAT FRELI MO
GOVERNMENT APPEARED TO BE STABLE AND CONCERNED WITH THE
INTERESTS OF ITS NEIGHBORS. PM REPLIED THAT FRELI MO WAS
BEHAVING MORE MODERATELY THAN MAY HAD PREDICTED. HE SAID
CLOSE COOPERATION WAS DEVELOPING BETWEEN FRELI MO AND THE
GOS, WHICH IS NOW BUYING PROPERTY IN LOURENCO MARQUES FOR
ITS NEW EMBASSY.

6. REGIONAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS. S.S. NXUMALO GAVE

CODEL AN INTERESTING REVIEW OF WAY IN WHICH HE THOUGHT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA MIGH EVOLVE (BEING REPORTED SEPTEL). CODEL ALSO RAISED THIS SUBJECT WITH PM, WHO REMARKED THAT VORSTER IS PUSHING SMITH TO GRANT THE KINDS OF CONCESSIONS IN ROHDESSIA THAT HE, VORSTER, IS UNWILLING TO MAKE IN SOUTH AFRICA (SUCH AS RELEASE OF POLITICAL DETAINEES). PM REMARKED, "WE NEED STRONG USG SUPPORT FOR RHODESIAN AND NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE." DIGGS AGREED AND PROMISED TO REPORT THE PM'S VIEWS IN WASHINGTON.

7. DOMEUTIC AFFAIRS. CODEL DISCUSSED SWAZILAND DOMESTIC AFFAIRS WITH PM, MINISTER OF FINANCE STEPHENS, AND MINISTER OF WORKS NXUMALO. THE PM EMPHASIZED SWAZILAND'S EDUCATIONAL NEEDS, CITING A CURRENT SHORTAGE OF 200 TEACHERS. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR AID ASSISTANCE IN THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, THE SUPPLY OF PEACE CORPS TEACHERS, AND MENTIONED RECENT WORLD BANK LOAN FOR EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES. DR. ALLAN NXUMALO REFERRED TO THE THERMAL POWER PROJECT, WHICH HE EXPECTS WILL GET UNDERWAY SOON, AND SAID SWAZILAND WOULD LIKE TO ARRANGE HIGH-LEVEL TRAINING FOR ITS TELECOMMUNICATIONS PERSONNEL IN THE U.S. HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT HE WOULD SOON BE MEEL NG WITH HIS SOUTH AFRICAN COUNTERPART TO TRY TO ARRANGE FOR INCREASED WOUTH AFRICAN USE OF THE SWAZILAND RAILROAD.

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PAGE 01 MBABAN 00258 02 OF 02 111817Z

73
ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 EUR-08 ISO-00 NSC-01 AID-01 /018 W
----- 111164

R 111610Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7579
INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR WS SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 2 OF 2 MBABANE 0258

MINISTER OF FINANCE STEPHENS SAID THAT GOS IS FACED WITH THE PROBLEM OF CREATING 4,000 NEW JOBS EVERY YEAR FOR YOUNG SWAZIS WHO ARE ENTERING THE LABOR MARKET. VARIOUS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS ARE BEING CONSIDERED, INCLUDING THE THIRD SUGAR SCHEME, JAPANESE INTEREST IN A NEW WOOD PUPL FOREST PROJECT, AND A NEW HOTEL/CASINO COMPLEX IN THE SOUTHEAST. SWAZILAND, HE SAID, NEEDS MORE TARRED ROADS AND ELECTRIC POWER; THE PROBLEM IS HOW TO GET LOW-COST, LONG-TERM FINANCING. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION BY REP. DIGGS, STEPHENS SAID THE ARAB STATES HAD BEEN "NIBBLING" BUT HAD NOT YET AGREED TO FINANCE A MAJOR PROJECT. "THEY ALWAYS WANT SOMETHING IN EXCHANGE," HE SAID. IN BRIEF DISCUSSION OF FORTHCOMING CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, STEPHENS, WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION, SAID SWAZI CITIZENS HAD CLEARLY INDICATED THEIR DESIRE NOT TO HAVE POLITICAL PARTIES. COMMISSIONS PROBLEM, THEREFORE, WAS TO DEVISE A SYSTEM WHICH WOULD BE REASONABLY REPRESENTATIVE AND RESPONSIVE WITHOUT PARTIES. IN RESPONSE TO CODEL'S QUESTION, STEPHENS SAID NEW CONSTITUTION WOULD INCLUDE A BILL OF RIGHTS.

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PAGE 02 MBABAN 00258 02 OF 02 111817Z

8. U.S./SWAZI RELATIONS. IN HIS SPEECH OF WELCOME TO CODEL AT RECEPTION FEB. 6, THE PM REFERRED WITH CONCERN TO THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT ABOUT THE USE OF FORCE IN SOME CIRCUMSTANCES. DURING MEETING WITH PM NEXT DAY, REP. DIGGS ALLUDED TO PM'S COMMENT AND SAID THAT THE SECRETARY'S REMARK WAS FREQUENTLY QUOTED OUT OF CONTEXT. DIGGS NOTED THAT CONGRESS NOW HAS MORE POWER TO PREVENT UNILATERAL ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE. ON OTHER HAND, HE SAID, ANY NATION WILL ACT IF ITS VITAL INTERESTS ARE THREATENED. IN DISCUSSION WITH STEPHENS, REP. DIGGS ASKED ABOUT BARRIERS TO U.S. INVESTMENT. STEPHENS SAID THAT IN THE PAST U.S. FIRMS INTERESTED IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN MARKET HAVE LOCATED IN SOUTH AFRICA ITSELF IN ORDER TO BE CLOSER TO SUPPLYING INDUSTRIES, AS WELL AS PRINCIPAL MARKETS. SO FAR, THEY HAD NOT SHOWN MUCH INTEREST IN SELLING TO OTHER BLACK AFRICAN STATES, WHERE LOCATION IN SWAZILAND WOULD BE AN ADVANTAGE. IN ENCOURAGING FOREIGN INVESTMENT, GOS ALSO HAD TO COMPETE WITH SAG POLICY OF ENCOURAGING NEW INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT IN THE BATUSTANS. LANE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MBABAN00258
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750050-0134
From: MBABANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750254/aaaabwjj.tel
Line Count: 220
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL DIGGS VISIT TO SWAZILAND
TAGS: PFOR, SREF, ECON, OREP, SF, US, WZ, (DIGGS, CHARLES C)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006